

What is claimed:

1. A method for treating or preventing ulcerative colitis and other associated diseases in target cells, comprising administering a compound to the target cells, wherein said compound inhibits interaction between CEP and hTM.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the compound inhibits the interaction between CEP and hTM by physically binding to either CEP or hTM within the target cell.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein the compound is a recombinant protein that comprises a functional hTM binding site from CEP.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the compound causes a decreased expression of the CEP protein in the target cells.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the compound prevents secretion of the CEP-hTM complex.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein the compound affects either cytoskeletal organization or active secretion.

7. The method of claim 5, wherein the compound is either phorbol-12-myristate-13-acetate, monensin or methylamine.

8. A method to treat or prevent ulcerative colitis and other associated diseases, comprising administering a recombinant protein that comprises a functional hTM binding site from CEP, wherein said functional binding site is operably linked to a non-antigenic protein.

9. A method to screen for drugs that are useful for treating ulcerative colitis and other associated diseases, comprising administering a drug to

human colon cancer cells and determining the amount of CEP-hTM complex, a decrease in CEP-hTM complex being indicative of therapeutic value of the drug.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein the amount of CEP-hTM
5 complex is determined by quantifying the amount of hTM secreted from the colon cancer cells.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein the colon cancer cells are LS-180 cells.

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12. A diagnostic method for detecting diseases associated with an autoantigen response to hTM in affected tissue, comprising detecting CEP-hTM complexes in the affected tissue, the presence of CEP-hTM complexes being indicative of the disease.

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13. The method of claim 12, wherein the CEP-hTM complexes are detected in the extracellular space of the affected tissue.

14. The method of claim 12, wherein the CEP-hTM complexes are
20 detected in intracellular space of the affected tissue.

15. The method of claim 12, wherein the tissue is the colon epithelium.

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